

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 00130 101657Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9678

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0130

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC
SUBJ: NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY: DUTCH REQUEST FOR VIEWS OF NEW
ADMINISTRATION

REF: THE HAGUE 7080

1. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN INFORMED EMBASSY JAN 10
THAT NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT VERY MUCH WISHES EARLY CONTACT
WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON TO ASCERTAIN US
POLICY ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS AND, MORE GENERALLY, NUCLEAR
PROLIFERATION. HE CITED URENCO AND PROSPECTIVE EXPORT OF
ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL AS BACKGROUND FOR DUTCH REQUEST
AND REASON FOR URGENCY.

2. RUTTEN SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WAS
PREPARED TO GO TO WASHINGTON FOR SUCH DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH
HE RECOGNIZED TIMING MIGHT PRESENT PROBLEM. ALTER-
NATIVELY, DUTCH WOULD PROPOSE DISCUSSION WITH VICE
PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE DURING HIS JUST ANNOUNCED,
FORTHCOMING VISIT TO EUROPE. DUTCH WOULD PREFER TO
INVITE VICE PRESIDENT TO COME TO THE HAGUE, BUT
SHOULD THIS BE IMPOSSIBLE, FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE
GLAD TO MEET MONDALE IN BRUSSELS, OR IN ANOTHER
EUROPEAN CAPITAL. RUTTEN ADDED THAT ONLY DATES TO
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PAGE 02 THE HA 00130 101657Z

WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER IS COMMITTED ARE JANUARY 31-
FEBRUARY 1 FOR EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN
LONDON.

3. RUTTEN EMPHASIZED THAT MATTER IS ONE OF CONSIDERABLE
URGENCY BECAUSE DUTCH ARE UNDER "HEAVY PRESSURE" FROM
GERMANS AND BRITISH TO PROCEED TO ENRICH URANIUM

UNDER CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL. NOTING RECENT CANADIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF STRICT POLICY LIMITING EXPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO SIGNATORIES OF NPT, RUTTEN SAID THAT SHOULD US POLICY UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION FOLLOW SAME PATTERN, IT WOULD CLEARLY PLACE PRESSURE ON GERMANS TO ALTER DECISION TO FURNISH BRAZIL WITH FACILITIES FOR COMPLETE FUEL CYCLE. HENCE NEED FOR EARLY CLARIFICATION OF US POLICY WAS IMPERATIVE.

4. EMBASSY NOTED IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT WASHINGTON WOULD BE IN POSITION TO GIVE DUTCH ANSWER ON PROPOSED MEETING VERY SOON, AND CERTAINLY NOT UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 20. RUTTEN RESPONDED THAT IN ANY CASE DUTCH WISHED THEIR REQUEST TO BE PUT TO WASHINGTON NOW IN HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE AMONG FIRST ITEMS OF BUSINESS FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED FROM PARA 7 REFTEL THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF US NUCLEAR POLICY FROM AMBASSADOR. SUBJECT IS VERY MUCH ON FRONT BURNER HERE SINCE DUTCH HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH QUESTION WHETHER TO ENLARGE URENCO OPERATIONS AND WHETHER THEY COULD VETO BRAZILIAN CONTRACT. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE AND SPECIFIC GUIDANCE, WE STRONGLY HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE US SOON WITH AT LEAST SOMETHING WITH WHICH TO RESPOND TO VAN DER STOEL'S QUERY.

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PAGE 03 THE HA 00130 101657Z

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